

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 081753Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1476

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1839

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA, US

SUBJECT: CONUS AIR DEFENSE: POSSIBLE IMPACT ON CURRENT U.S.

PLANNING ON CANADA.

REF : 1. STATE 147164

2. STATE 155861

1. SUMMARY: ON BASIS DISCREET CONVERSATIONS WITH EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP AND OTHER OFFICIALS WE FEEL THAT NO REDUCTION OPTION (REFTEL PARA 3 AND EVEN 4 WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED) WILL AFFECT BASIC WILLINGNESS GOC TO COOPERATE IN BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONS. HOWEVER, ANY CHANGE IN LEVEL OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR NORAD IS LIKELY TO BE MATCHED BY REDUCTION IN LEVEL OF CANADIAN SUPPORT. ARGUMENT THAT NORAD HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS IS LIKELY TO GAIN MORE CREDENCE IN EVENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY REDUCTION OPTION. IT MAY BE NECESSARY, TO ENSURE CONTINUED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION, TO RECONFIGURE NORAD MISSION TO ACCENTUATE A "NEW ROLE" OR "NEW PURPOSE." ANY U.S. REDUCTION OPTION COULD DELAY, BUT PROBABLY NOT CANCEL, LRPA PROCUREMENT AND WOULD INFLUENCE SELECTION AND DELAY PROCUREMENT FOR FIGHTER AIRCRAFT NEEDED IN LATE 70'S. END SUMMARY

2. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMAL AND DISCREET SOUNDINGS IN EXTAFF AND DND WE ANTICIPATE THAT U.S. OPTIONS AS OUTLINED REFTTEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE FATAL EFFECT ON BASIC WILLINGNESS OF GOC TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE

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AND IN OTHER BILATERAL DEFENSE MATTERS. IN PRIVATE LUNCH HELD

BY AMBADDADOR JULY 30 SUBJECT OF NORAD AROSE AND EXTAF  
MINISTER SHARP ADDRESSED THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. REDUCTIONS.  
SHARP SAID THAT NORAD AGREEMENT HAS BASIC SUPPORT AMONG  
CANADIANS. HE NOTED THE CANADIAN PUBLIC IS LARGELY UNFAMILIAR  
WITH THE SCOPE AND DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT, GENERALLY REGARDING  
IT AS A COMPREHENSIVE BILATERAL ALLIANCE WITH POSITIVE  
SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE. GIVEN THIS CANADIAN ATTITUDE HE  
DESCRIBED A LARGE PART OF THE FUTURE PROBLEM AS PRESENTATIONAL.  
SHARP NOTED THAT THE DIMINUTION OF THE MANNED BOMBER THREAT  
HAD CAUSED NORAD CRITICS (PARTICULARLY THE NDP) TO QUESTION  
THE NEED FOR ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. HE SPECULATED THAT ANY CHANGE  
IN THE LEVEL OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR NORAD WHICH TENDED TO  
DIMINISH FURTHER THE CREDIBILITY OF A MANNED BOMBER THREAT  
WOULD INEVITABLY PROVIDE MORE AMMUNITION FOR THOSE THAT CLAIM  
THAT NORAD HAD OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS. THOUGH HESAI  
HE WAS JUST THROWING OUT AN IDEA HE HAD NOT PROPERLY CONSIDERED,  
HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS CRITICISM MIGHT BE OFFSET SOMEWHAT BY  
GIVING NORAD SOME NEW APPEARANCE, INVESTING IT WITH NEW ROLES  
OR TRAPPINGS. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SELLING TO  
PARLIAMENT AND THE PUBLIC A RE-CAST NORAD WOULD BE MUCH EASIER  
THAN TRYING TO SELL NORAD AS A TRUNCATED VERSION OF ITS FORMER  
SELF. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE, AND SUBJECT  
OF FUTURE GOC PROCUREMENT OF LRPA DID NOT ARISE IN THIS  
CONNECTION.

3. ON THE BASIS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED WITHIN EXTAF AND DND WE  
FEEL THAT U.S. REDUCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF NORAD OF THE MAGNITUDE  
OF THOSE OUTLINED REFTEL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BRING ABOUT  
CONCURRENT REDUCTIONS IN CANADIAN SUPPORT LEVELS FOR NORAD.  
CANADA'S THREE INTERCEPTOR SQUADRONS ALONE COULD DO LITTLE  
AGAINST A MASSIVE INCURSION BY HOSTILE BOMBERS AND GOC MIGHT  
WELL DEACTIVATE ONE OR MORE OF THEM SHOULD U.S. IMPLEMENT  
STEPS IN PARA 3 REFTEL. CANADA HAS NO EQUIVALENT OF U.S. AIR  
NATIONAL GUARD. HOWEVER, EXTAF NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE DIRECTOR  
SHERWOOD SUGGESTED THAT SOME FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR CAPABILITY  
MIGHT BE MAINTAINED IN A "CIVIL SURVEILLANCE" OR "CANADIAN  
SOVEREIGNTY" ROLE, DEALING WITH MATTERS SUCH AS HIJACKINGS  
OR INCIDENTAL INCURSIONS INTO CANADIAN AIR SPACE. AIRCRAFT SO  
EMPLOYED COULD EASILY BE EARMARKED AS SUGGESTED PARA 6 REFTEL.

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4. WE BELIEVE EITHER REDUCTION OPTIONS MIGHT DELAY THE  
PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE OF LRPA, BUT SINCE, ACCORDING TO SHERWOOD,  
LRPA HAS VIRTUALLY NO AIR DEFENSE ROLE, CHANGES IN NORAD  
CAPABILITY WOULD PROBABLY NOT AFFECT BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR  
LRPA. NEVERTHELESS, SUCH CHANGES COULD CAUSE DND TO RETHINK  
LRPA ROLE AND MIGHT RESULT IN MODIFICATIONS OF NUMBERS OR LRPA  
SPECIFICATIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT COST ESTIMATES FOR  
LRPA ARE RISING SUBSTANTIALLY AND DND MAY ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY

IN MEETING PROCUREMENT GOALS EVEN WERE THERE NO CHANGE IN  
THE U.S. SUPPORT LEVELS FOR NORAD.

5. DND OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY HOPING RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION  
FOR NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, AND ARE STUDYING POSSIBLE  
REPLACEMENTS FOR F-101'S AND CF-104'S NOW SCHEDULED TO BE  
PHASED OUT IN 1973. WE FEEL THAT GIVEN GOC THINKING ON  
CREDIBILITY OF MANNED BOMBER THREAT, DND HOPES MAY WELL BE  
PIPEDREAMS IN ANY EVENT. SINCE PRIMARY ROLE OF NEW FIGHTER  
WOULD BE AIR DEFENSE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY OF THE OPTIONS  
DESCRIBED REFTEL WOULD CERTAINLY DELAY AND PROBABLY ABORT ANY  
GOC FIGHTER PROCUREMENT OVER THE NEXT DECADE.  
SCHMIDT

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## Message Attributes

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